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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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The Daily Commercial.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1873.

THE amount of coal shipped from this city, on the present rise, is six million five hundred and ninety-four thousand bushels.

ONE of the most indefatigable and faithful of our public servants is Postmaster General Creswell. The people generally will be glad to learn that he is at present actively and earnestly engaged in measures which he feels confident will result in much greater promptness and regularity in the mail service for the present year, than has been attained at any previous period.

IN another column we print a communication addressed by C. L. MAGEE, Esq., City Treasurer, to the Hon. CHARLES R. BUCKALEW, Chairman of the Constitutional Committee on Public and Municipal Debt, bearing on the subject of municipal taxation and indebtedness. The subject is an important one, and the suggestions made by our City Treasurer are worthy the careful consideration of the committee to whom they are addressed.

ONCE upon a time a shrewd and observant scoundrelman, being asked to define the nature of metaphysics, answered, that when two or more persons engaged in a dispute concerning something which neither of them knew anything, that was metaphysics. We observe that a number of our Democratic contemporaries are quite earnestly engaged in discussing the question of "The Religious Element in Politics." Judging from the general past and present course of the organs of that party with regard to the Administration, its measures and supporters, we are inclined to the opinion that it is an unknown quantity.

ABOUT a year ago we directed attention to the fact that a combination of the owners of expiring patents for the manufacture of paper from wood and straw, had been formed with the design of procuring from Congress an extension of their patents; and we called upon the press to oppose this scheme concertedly. The combination of the patentees had reaped abundant reward from the invention, and that the renewal sought would impose a considerable tax on the entire reading public, as well as a vast number of occupations and pursuits into which the employment of paper enters. Of course it is right and proper that inventive genius and enterprise should be properly rewarded and encouraged; but the great masses of the people, also, have some rights in the premises which should be respected. It is to be hoped Congress will flatly refuse to grant any further extension of the patent; and to this end we call on our contemporaries everywhere to demand—as we do—that their Representatives shall stand fast.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S resolution, directing the Committee on Privileges and Elections to inquire whether the recent elections in Louisiana and Arkansas were held in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the United States, and whether, if not legal, it was done although it would perhaps be better to refer the subject to a committee of both Houses. Atall events the complications surrounding these cases ought to be sifted to the bottom, irrespective of the clamors of this faction or that, and the matter determined without fear or favor. This is evidently the wish of the President, who, it is plain, is determined to act with the unprejudiced and ambitious demagogues with which those distracted States are cursed. And, apropos of this subject, the misrepresentation in which the opposition press has persistently indulged concerning his position with regard to the Louisiana troubles, has been absolutely shameful. He simply confined himself to the duty of executing the laws and sustaining the Courts. He did not declare the decision of Judge BUSSELL illegal. He simply declared it must be obeyed until legally reversed. In the light of recent events it is quite clear that nothing but the interposition of Federal authority prevented a bloody collision between the exasperated opposing factions. The President took the part of neither, but merely performed his sworn duty under the Constitution and the laws Now let Congress imitate his example.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The sixth annual Message of Governor GEARY was delivered before the Legislature yesterday, and is printed in full in this issue. Lengthy as it is, it will repay careful perusal. Apart from a little superfluous personal and political rhetoric, it is a sensible, straightforward business document, which discusses the various interests of the Commonwealth in a direct and practical manner, and suggests a number of important improvements and reforms; and it is hardly too much to say that, upon the whole, it commends itself to the approbation of the people of the State generally, without respect to party.

Most of the recommendations embodied in the Message have already been advocated in these columns. The permanent improvement of the Ohio river; compulsory education; a new geological and mineralogic survey of the Commonwealth; an earnest and liberal support of the Centennial; the necessity of a revision of the militia laws; the creation of a State Board of Health; the importance of a more comprehensive treatment of that great problem of modern society—our pauper, criminal and afflicted classes—all these various matters have at different times been set forth and advocated in the Commercial, and hence it is not necessary for us now to do more than state that we heartily approve the sentiments of the Message in these particulars, and that we trust the recommendations embraced may be speedily carried out. The desirability of inaugurating a more liberal policy toward chartered industrial companies in the State has also been repeatedly dwelt upon in this paper.

The financial statement is particularly satisfactory and encouraging; showing, as it does, the extinguishment during the year of $2,476,336 of the public debt; leaving, less amount of assets and cash on hand, a total public indebtedness of $16,521,039 03, against $37,701,409 77 at the close of 1866. This amount can be extinguished in ten years by the annual payment of a little over a million and a half of dollars, while by the funding system adopted the burden is being removed gradually and in a way not perceptibly to add to the weight of taxation borne by the people. The document is accompanied by the usual Pardon Report, to which reference is made elsewhere.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report of Col. R. B. BEATH, Surveyor General, for the year ending November 30th, is before us. The receipts paid into the State Treasury, during the year, were $48,155 48—a little less than for the year 1871, but about the average of yearly receipts since the passage of the act of May 20, 1864, which so greatly stimulated the patenting of lands. The stimulus given by that act seems to have reached its maximum in 1870, since which time the applications for patents have diminished. The act of last session requiring County Surveyors to notify the owners of unpatented lands of the amounts of the liens held against them by the State has been put into operation. This plan has been adopted to avoid the harshness of bringing suits without notice, which could have been done at any time, and it is believed will go far toward, closing up the unfinished business of the Department. Special lists were made out for each county, and embraced 1,492 tracts and 92 town lots, covering 324,470 acres, against which the Commonwealth has liens for unpaid purchase money and fees amounting to over $100,000. Many of the County Surveyors have reported, and generally have been quite successful in finding the tracts and the owners. They uniformly report that the owners will voluntarily settle, and thus avoid compulsory collection on the part of the State. The liens against lands not embraced in the special lists amount to $500,000, thus showing an aggregate due the State from unpatented lands of $600,000. The Surveyor General appreciates the importance of speedily closing up the accounts of the State against unpatented lands, and suggests to those who cannot find their lands to be represented, the propriety of paying off their liens without waiting to be notified by the County Surveyor. By doing so, they will save costs, and the accumulation of interest on the liens. The Surveyor recommends an increase of the fees for making connected drafts, copies of records, etc., as the revenues from this source do not amount to one-third what is paid out in clerk hire for this service. He asks the fees to be increased so as to make the office at least self-sustaining.

A CORRESPONDENT of the St. Louis *Republican* points out a way by which the death of Capt. Cook, the great navigator, may be terribly avenged. The first step will be to annex the Sandwich Islands; divide it up into States and Territories; give all disappointed office-hunters to place there; send George Francis Train, Victoria Woodhull, Petroleum Nasby and Blanton Duncan out there to make things pleasant. Give Mrs. Stanton and Lucy Stone an island to experiment on with crowing hens. Induce all the lecturers who are now preambulating the country to go there, and if anyone is disappointed in not being appointed Secretary of the Treasury, send him too, along with one Chicago man possessed of a roving commission to seek whom he may devour. This done, place a cordon of batteries around the whole concern with strict orders to blow the internal arrangement out of each and everyone who attempts to leave.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Philadelphia, with a population in 1870 of 674,022, erected during the past year 5,330 new buildings, of which 4,333 were dwellings. Baltimore, with a population in 1870 of 267,354, erected during the past year 2,300. This shows a pretty close race between the two cities in proportion to population.

Australia, which depends upon her gold mines for life and excitement, offers $25,000 for the discovery of a paying gold field within 300 miles of any port.

There are vast quantities of sumac in the Mississippi valley, which contains two and a half per cent. more of tannin than the best of the Sicily plant. Tannin is largely in demand among tanners, and a company of capitalists is being organized in Michigan for its manufacture, and it is expected the works will be in operation at some point on the Mississippi within a few months. It is predicted that the commercial value of this article will within the present decade be increased to $25,000,000.

The *Tribune* states that the subscriptions in aid of the Greeley statue project are coming in liberally. It urges those who intend to give, to give quickly. Full lists of the names of subscribers, with the amounts of their subscriptions, will be published. There will soon be a meeting of the committee having the matter in charge, when the state of the fund will be made known to the public.

An ex-Judge of one of the Westchester county, N. Y., courts, has been arrested for tilt-tapping, having been caught in the act. He seems to be a confirmed kleptomaniac, as in his room were found a few bushels of articles of no use to him, which he had stolen from other people. *He is* a man of means, and had an extensive legal practice, which brought him in a large revenue.

If Buckle were alive, how he would rejoice over the statistics of Hamilton county, Ohio, for the past two years, to corroborate his faith in the doctrine of averages. Thirty-eight persons were drowned in that county in 1872, and thirty-seven in 1871, and there were 239 coroner's inquests in 1872, and 218 in 1871.

On the first day of the present year a new line of steamships was started between San Francisco and China. The estimated running time is sixteen days.

An expedition to explore the land of Bashan and Moab, under the command of Lieutenant Steever, United States Army, will set out from New York next autumn to ascertain if Jordan be really such a "hard road to travel" as is popularly believed.

The opium eaters have at last a quarterly magazine. Its title is, "Theriaki; a Magazine devoted to the Interests of Opium Eaters," and it is issued at Lapeer, Indiana. The last number has alarming articles on "Opium Eating in Schools," and on "Opium—the Sheet Anchor of the Medical Profession." Out of 500,000 pounds of opium exported from Smyrna in one year, the United States took 280,000.

A writer in *Appleton's Journal* complains that the American nation has no name. An American traveling on the continent of Europe is taken for an Englishman on account of his language, or if called an American, confounded with the revolutionists of the American republics.

A convention of American dairymen is to be held next week at Utica, to the success of which every cheesemaker is urged to contribute his mite.

The recent extension of the Signal Service observations to the center of the continent, in Manitoba, will insure the collection of systematic and accurate data for clearing up the climatology of these inland Territories, and probably open the way for their early and populous settlement.

It is estimated that the recent American diamond swindle cost the people of Cape Colony some hundreds of thousands of pounds, as when the news of the alleged discoveries reached South Africa the market value of diamonds depreciated by nearly twenty per cent.

PERSONAL.

The Mayor of Tallahassee, Florida, is a remarkable man. He not only refuses to accept the salary attached to his office, but actually persists in turning into the city treasury all fees to which he is entitled by law.

Arrangements have been effected in New York for a spring musical festival, to be given in April, at which Herr Rubinstein will appear as conductor, and perhaps some of his heavier orchestral and choral works.

Mr. Henry Blagrove, the most renowned of English violinists, died recently at his residence in London, after a lengthened and severe illness. The immediate cause of his death was congestion of the lungs. He was among the first students admitted to the Royal Academy of Music, when that institution was founded, about half a century ago.

Major Pauline Cushman, one of the heroines of the rebellion, is lying quite sick at Virginia City, Nevada Territory.

Judge Charles G. Lane, a wealthy and influential citizen of Hagerstown, Washington county, Md., for many years Chief Justice of the Orphans' Court of that county, and at the time of his death President of the First National Bank of Hagerstown, committed suicide on Saturday by hanging himself in the barn of his current with a rope around his neck attached to a beam. It is supposed he was laboring under temporary mental aberration, superinduced by a severe attack of fever, and the marriage pending against him, and which was compromised a few days since by the payment of three thousand dollars. He leaves a large estate.

Ex-Governor Hoffman, with his wife and daughter, and Gen. R. L. Banks, late of the Governor's staff, sailed for Europe yesterday in the steamship Parthia.

The statement heretofore published of Prof. Tyndall's purpose to devote the entire proceeds of his lectures in this country to the advancement of science in America is true. The mode of his investment, however, has not yet been made public, and the whole matter will be determined upon by the Professor in his own time and his own way.

The press banquet by the Washington correspondents to Mr. Henry M. Stanley, the *Herald's* African explorer, will take place at Willard's on Saturday next, the 11th instant.

The Newark *Advertiser* says that the only sister of Edgar A. Poe is living at Hick's Landing, on the James river, Virginia, in utmost poverty.

A Great Oil Strike.

(From the Beaver Radical, 3d.)

The largest oil well ever obtained in this section, owned by McCreery Bros., of Island Run, and located on J. & F. McLaughlin's farm, Ohio township, about a mile south-east of the celebrated Mason well, on the fork of Dry Run, which empties into the Ohio at Smith's Ferry, was struck last Friday, tubed and partially exhausted on Saturday, flowed through casing on Sunday in an hour or so, ten barrels, when the gas which was abundant, taking fire, the further testing of the well was suspended. We are informed by oil men of good judgment that the show and partial test indicates, positively, a flow of more that the well will be from twenty to forty barrels, while others claim one hundred. The strike has created unusual excitement from the fact that it opens a new field for oil operations and demonstrates that the oil belt is more extensive than was before believed.

Rumored Shooting Affray in Phillipsburg, Centre County.

The Johnstown *Voice* of the 7th says: We understand quite a serious difficulty occurred at Phillipsburg, Centre county, a few days ago. The rumor says the miners at that place were on a strike, and a party of ladies and gentlemen went over from Bellefonte to participate in the mazy dance, but one or two of the gentlemen from Bellefonte having an interest in the mines, it was not long before a general fight commenced, and in the discharge of fire arms, one unlucky ball passed through the window killing a niece of ex-Governor Curtin. One or two others were supposed to be fatally injured. We give the above as a flying rumor, and hope the affair is without foundation.

A CASE which exhibited the extent to which usury is practiced in London, was decided last month in the Court of Chancery. The Earl of Aylesford, in whose veins flows some of the best English blood, was always "hard up," through debts of honor," despite a liberal yearly allowance during his father's lifetime, and resorted to one of the numerous Shylocks in London for a loan of £8,000, which he got upon promising to pay *sixty per cent.* interest. On the death of the late Earl, the usurer demanded his "pound of flesh," but the young nobleman declined to be thus plucked without an effort. He, therefore, brought suit in Chancery. His plea for the claim at common law, but the Chancery Court declared it "unconscionable," and decided that if the young man would pay the fifteen per cent. which he had first proposed, the money-changer would have no further hold on him. The Aylesford estate yields about £20,000 per year income, so that the Earl could have easily paid the extortionate claim; but he chose to run the risk of being branded as a man of indifferent honor, rather than become the dupe of an outrageous piece of usury.

IF any farmer should chance to have a cow fall into an ice hole in the river, he may learn how to get her out from this story of the way it was done at Bethel, Mass, one day last week: A man caught the unfortunate animal by the horns and held her head above water, while a rope could be procured; then another man put the rope around her neck with a slip knot and tightened it around her throat, causing her to suddenly bloat with air, and rise to the top of the water, when with her struggling and a little assistance she came out on the ice safely.

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR JOHN W. GEARY.

To the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, January 8, 1873.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—In obedience to the requirements of the Constitution I have the honor of transmitting to you my sixth annual message. Since your last meeting the general course of events, both State and National, has been so propitious as to afford abundant cause for mutual congratulation, and of thanksgiving to that Almighty Providence whose will controls the destinies of all. While we have been exempt from the calamity by fire that has befallen the metropolis of a great sister State, her misfortune has inured to the benefit of our people by the enlistment of that sympathy for the suffering which is one of the most ennobling sentiments of the human heart. The season, on the whole, so favorable for the productions of our soil as in some past years, have been sufficiently fruitful; and no general epidemic has appeared to disturb the repose, or diminish the health of our population. Our mining industries, manufactures and internal commerce are being constantly developed, and laborers are receiving remunerative compensation. No general conflict has occurred, resulting in a signal triumph of the same principles that were asserted in the restoration of the Union, the amendment of the Constitution, and the reconstruction of the States. The victory in Pennsylvania was decisive of the victory in the nation, and it will be remembered as an inestimable contribution to the harmony, prosperity and glory of the country. The election of the soldier, who "is first in war," to the office that makes him "first in peace," was an appropriate exhibition of national gratitude, and one of the deepest feelings of satisfaction "in the hearts of the people."

While the Constitution wisely withholds from the Governor all power of interference in legislation, he imposes upon him the duty of laying before the General Assembly such information of the state of affairs, and recommending to their consideration such measures as he may deem expedient and important to the public welfare.

I am happy to inform you that peace and good order have been maintained by the enforcement of just and equal laws, and the vigilant exercise of authority continues to find an enduring basis of support in the intelligence, affections and moral sense of the people.

FINANCES.

The credit of the State remains unquestioned abroad, because her public faith has been inviolably maintained at home. The following condensed statement of the receipts, expenditures and indebtedness of the Commonwealth is respectfully submitted:

Receipts.

Balance in Treasury November 30, 1871	$1,476,509 89
Receipts from all sources during the year ending November 30, 1872	7,148,937 45
Total in Treasury during year ending November 30, 1872	$8,625,446 04
Disbursements.	
Ordinary expenses during the year ending November 30, 1872	$2,960,631 85
Loans, &c., Redeemed	2,476,336 00
Interest on loans paid	1,706,952 80
Total disbursements	$7,142,920 65
Balance in Treasury November 30, 1872	$1,482,525 6

Public Debt.

The public debt on Nov. 30, 1871, was	$28,989,071 73
Add Chamberlsburg certificates	299,748 91
Add Agricultural College Land Scrip fund, held in trust, as per act approved April 3, 1872	500,000 00
	$29,779,820 64
Deduct amount paid by Commissioners of the Sinking Fund during the year ending Nov. 30, 1872	2,476,336 00
Public debt, November 30, 1872	$27,303,484 64
Deduct assets in Sinking Fund	$ 9,200,000 00
And cash balance in Treasury	1,482,425 61
Amount of assets and cash	$10,782,455 61

Balance of public debt unpaid, less $6,881,029 03 in the Sinking Fund, Nov. 30, 1872 ..... $16,521,039 03

The annual payment of one million six hundred thousand dollars.

During the last six years payments on the debt have been made as follows:

Amount paid in 1867	$ 1,794,644 80
Amount paid in 1868	2,414,816 64
Amount paid in 1869	473,406 18
Amount paid in 1870	1,702,117 76
Amount paid in 1871	2,121,599 17
Amount paid in 1872	2,476,336 00
Total payments	$10,982,862 54

being a little over seventy-nine per cent. on the debt due December 1, 1856, which was then $37,701,409 77.

Sinking Fund.

In remarking upon this subject, I trust it will be instructive to refer briefly to some of the facts relating to the accumulation and payment of the public debt, and urge in this session, additional aid from the sale of the public improvements.

However wise the measures which were in operation previous to the war for trade and commerce, and however great were the benefits resulting to the people from the internal improvements of a railroad age, it is obvious, that while those of other States rarely failed to become a source of revenue, the Pennsylvania canal system was such as to produce results widely different. A large and costly work, it was, from the time of its first location, commenced under the general laws which regulate the incorporation of manufacturing, mining and improvement companies. These laws, while they resemble in their principal features the liberal systems in force in other States, fail in that essential purpose of encouraging manufacturing industry, because the privileges they grant are enormously taxed by taxation.

This may be illustrated by supposing the case of twenty persons, each subscribe five thousand dollars to the stock of a company organized for the purpose of producing oil, or mining ore or coal, or manufacturing cotton or woolen goods, iron or steel, or any other commodity. The fund thus created must be expended in the erection of buildings and permanent improvements, which are taxable for all purposes to the same extent as if they were owned by an individual. Besides this, the company, for every pany must pay a bonus of one-fourth of one per cent. to the Commonwealth. It is not too much to suppose that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars. It is thereafter liable to an annual tax upon its capital stock at the rate of three mills on the dollar, or three per cent. of dividends made or declared. In case of no dividends made, then a tax of three per cent. on the greater part of which was incurred for improvements, which, as herein shown, utterly failed to be advantageous to her coffers.

The rapid reduction of the State debt, and the restoration of the credit of the State, on hand throughout my entire administration, and have continued in market perfectly unaffected by the war; at the same time, the concurrence and wisdom of the Legislature, and the fidelity of those who have been entrusted with the execution of its laws.

This policy should be continued, and no attempt to lower the public credit by reducing the rate of interest should be made for the purpose of obtaining the people pleased to appreciate the enterprises of doubtful propriety, to which propositions, if coupled with a condition to raise the money by intervention of the people, I am confident will promptly be rejected.

The Legislative appropriations, during the last six years, made in aid of the various institutions for the support of the deaf, dumb, blind, insane, feebleminded, inebriate, and children in soldiers' orphans' homes, hospitals, universities, houses of correction, penitentiaries, and for the payment of militia expenses, incurred during the war; expenses of government, common schools, soldiers' orphans' schools, amount to about $17,000,000 00.

The expenses of the soldiers' orphans' schools alone, during the same time, is $1,467,541 35; and although it is a most laudable and patriotic expenditure, it is, nevertheless, a heavy one, and if such a necessity had not existed, the reduction of the State debt, during their existence, would have been nearly fifteen million dollars.

During the past six years the current of legislation has been adverse to the policy of reduced taxation. Not only have numerous local laws been enacted, exempting churches, cemeteries, schools, hospitals and other institutions from taxation, but many general laws of the same character have been passed, as is shown by the following enumeration:

By the "act to amend the revenue laws," approved February 23, 1866, all real estate in the Commonwealth was thereafter made exempt from taxation for State purposes.

By the act approved March 30, 1866, all persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service, or who were honorably discharged therefrom by reason of wounds or any physical disability contracted therein, and their property, were exonerated from all bounties, and *per capita* tax and military fines.

The act of April 29, 1867, repealed all laws requiring payment of taxes to the State on sales of loans and stocks by brokers.

By the act of April 10, 1867, all trustees, or owners of property held in trust for the benefit of religious, charitable, used for soldiers' orphans' schools, were exempted from all "county, city, borough, poor and school taxes."

By the act of April 4, 1868, and the supplements thereto, the capital stock, the loans, accumulations and moneys owing upon articles of agreement for the sale of real estate made, were exempt from all taxation, except for State purposes.

By act approved January 5, 1870, all laws therein recited were repealed, which imposed taxes therein "the shares of stock held by any stockholder in any institution or company incorporated under the laws of this State, which in its corporate capacity is liable to the State to pay a tax upon its capital stock or on capital stock imposed" by the acts therein recited.

The act of June 2, 1871, repealed so much of the law of April 29, 1844, as imposed a tax of two per cent. on shares, &c., exempted from taxation by professions.

And by the act of April 3, 1872, the sixth section of the law of April 21, 1854, was repealed, which imposed a tax of one half of one per cent. on the capital stock of banking companies, and exempted all "to enable joint tenants, tenants in common, and adjoining owners of mineral lands, to manage and develop the same."

In view of these facts, the practical questions now are, can additional exemptions be properly made? And if so, on what subjects?

Heretofore on several occasions I have invited the attention of your predecessors to the importance of adopting a more liberal policy toward those citizens who are engaged in the various pursuits of life, to employ large numbers of workingmen, and tend to develop the resources of the Commonwealth, by involving great risks, and requiring for their successful conduct a large amount of capital, these operations are usually conducted by companies or associations, organized

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 8, 1873.

We give herewith a tabular statement of the reports of the national banks of this city, with those of Allegheny and Birmingham.

The item of most interest is the condition of the reserves; notwithstanding the demand on the resources of the banks their aggregate reserve shows a surplus above the 25 per cent. required by law.

The surplus earnings show an increase of $21,580 since the report of October 2—during which time nearly all the banks paid dividends ranging from 8 to 16 per cent. per annum. The Iron City paying 8 per cent. semi-annually, the Farmers' Deposit 4 per cent. quarterly and the First National 3 per cent. quarterly. The deposit line shows a decrease of $380,684 since the last report, a falling off of $1,219,427 since that of June 10th; yet the loans have been pulled down but $193,941 since October 3, and $564,345 since June 10, 1872.

The First National still holds her prominence as having the largest deposit line, showing but a few thousand less than at the last report. The Allegheny National has made the largest advance, having increased her deposit line $69,002. "Bills re-discounted" figure about $100,000 for the whole list, showing but little has been received from outside quarters. Taking into consideration the active demand for money during the past ninety days, the favorable condition of the reports should be a cause of self-congratulation among the officers managing these institutions.

REPORT OF DECEMBER 27, 1872.

NAMES.	Capital.	Surplus.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Loans.
Commercial	$500,000	$ 188,220	$ 665,000	$ 450,000	$ 1,000,000
Tradesmen's	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Citizens'	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Iron City	500,000	100,000	600,000	450,000	1,000,000
Germania	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Mechanics'	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Peoples'	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Exchange	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Second	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Fourth	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
M. & M.	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Diamond	200,000	50,000	250,000	180,000	400,000
Total, Pittsburgh	$3,500,000	$ 938,220	$ 4,665,000	$ 3,150,000	$ 7,000,000
First National, Allegheny	500,000	150,000	1,146,284	450,000	1,000,000
Second	300,000	75,000	577,867	270,000	600,000
Third	300,000	75,000	584,744	270,000	600,000
Citizens'	300,000	75,000	606,469	270,000	600,000
Fifth	300,000	75,000	577,867	270,000	600,000
Total, Allegheny	$1,700,000	$ 450,000	$ 3,493,231	$ 1,530,000	$ 3,400,000
First National, Birmingham	100,000	25,000	150,000	90,000	200,000
Total	$5,300,000	$ 1,413,220	$ 8,308,231	$ 4,770,000	$ 10,600,000

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	113	113¼
U. S. Bonds of 1864	113¼	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	114¼	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	113¼	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1867	114¼	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114¼	114¾
10-40s	110¾	110¾
New 5s	111¼	111¾
Gold	112	112¼
Currency 6s	113	113½

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	112¾
United States 6s of 1881	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	113¼
United States 5-20s of 1865, January and July	113¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	114¾
United States 10-40s	110¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	113¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	114¼
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	114¼
Currency 6s	113½

—The *Mining Gazette* publishes some very interesting statistics with reference to the copper productions of Lake Superior in 1872, and compares the yield of the year just closing with that of 1871. The following table exhibits the productions of the mines in the copper districts for the year ending December 1:

	Tons.	Lbs.
Calumet and Hecla (about)	9,600	00
Quincy	1,397	1,949
Franklin and Pewabic	670	
Houghton (eleven months)	200	
Schoolcraft (ten months)	287	289
Isle Royale	81	
Concord (about)	84	
Mannord	26	
Other sources	6	
Total	12,612	319
Product in 1871	12,744	1,999
Decrease in 1872	132	1,587
KEWEENAW POINT DISTRICT.		
Central	Tons.	Lbs.
Phœnix	724	160
Copper Falls	477	
Delaware	493	1,000
Cliff	191	101
St. Clair	14	1,674
Totherick	12	1,500
Other sources	6	146
Total	1,819	934
Product in 1871	3,340	1,931
Decrease in 1872	594	497
ONTONAGON DISTRICT.		
Ridge, Minnesota, National and others	Tons.	Lbs.
Product in 1871	787	1,000
Decrease in 1872	993	1,447
	205	446
RECAPITULATION.		
Houghton county	Tons.	Lbs.
Keweenaw county	13,616	319
Ontonagon county	1,836	931
Total	787	1,000
Product in 1871	15,174	213
	15,076	713
Decrease in 1872	902	500

The table shows a decrease in the products of the mines, so far as quantity is concerned, but the profits arising from mining operations have been greater than during 1871. The latter circumstance is due to the great demand for copper which has prevailed throughout the season, and to the fact that but a moderate amount could be obtained from all sources. The slight decrease in quantity was caused by the strike last spring among the miners, and some circumstances of less consequence, which diminished the production.

The total yield of Calumet and Hecla for the last twelve months was nearly 10,000 tons of mineral, representing a money value of about $8,000,000, over three-fifths of which is profit.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	111¾	112¼	112¼	112	112¼
Quotations					
Wabash, Pacific Pref.	76½	76½	76½		80½
Quicksilver	32½	33½	32	31½	
Pacific Mail	72½	73½	72	71½	
Adams Express		94	94	94	
Wells, Fargo Express				65½	
American Express		59½		59½	
United States Express		85	85	81	
New York Central	1	101½	101½		101¾
Michigan Central	63½	63¾	63¾	107	63¾
Michigan Southern	96¾	96¾	96½		96¾
Illinois Central					
Cleveland and Pittsburgh		81¾			80½
Chicago and Northwest		81¾			81¾
Do preferred		87¾			
Rock Island	110	110	109½	109½	109¾
St. Paul					42½
Do preferred					82¾
Wabash					
Do Preferred					
Fort Wayne					
Ohio and Mississippi	48	47¾	47½	92	47¾
Union Pacific	38¾	38¾	38½		38¾
Chicago and Alton					
Do. preferred					
Hudson, Harford & Erie	83½		83½	83½	83½
Harlem					
New Jersey Central	115			114½	115

Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn's Central	87½
Reading	56¾
United Co's of N.J.	122
Oil Creek & A. R.	93½
Lehigh Valley R. R.	59
Ex.-Coupon.	
Phila. and Erie	27½
Lehigh Navigation	58¾
Pittsburgh 5s*	72
N. Y. & E. R.	30½
Central Transport'n	47

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL,
WEDNESDAY, January 8, 1873.

REMARKS—The weather continues warm and pleasant, and country merchants are taking advantage of the same to visit the city and replenish their well nigh exhausted stocks. Trade is brightening up in all departments, and we hope ere long to see it fairly active. This will surely be the case should the closing period of the winter prove mild and navigation not again be obstructed by ice. The receipts of grain, wheat, corn and rye in particular—continue light. Flour, though in fair receipt, fails sh rt of the demand, and dealers hold many orders ahead of their ability to fill. We may add that Western dispatches state that certain choice brands have advanced, which we'll cause a corresponding rise here. With regard to prices generally we have no particular change to note. Butter is in plentiful supply and prices rule weak and low. Eggs are in good demand and prices still maintained. Apples are arriving freely and all prime qualities meet ready sale.

The following are the receipts of produce for the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, barrels	4,641	5,741	10,382
Apples, barrels	2,204	1,681	3,885
Cheese, tubs		118	118
Corn, sacks	1,143	1,676	2,819
Wheat, sacks	565	3,287	3,852
Barley, sacks	625	1,550	2,175
Oats, sacks	1,972	2,163	4,135
Butter, packages	1,427	2,016	4,043
Bacon, pieces	275	467	742
Bacon, pieces	12,529	20,215	32,744
Lard, packages	1,197	10	1,207
Hides, pieces	137	10	47

We will be found the rating wholesale rates of the market unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—There is a moderately active demand, with sales reported at Bolivar, 7 cars (1 mill) pots 10c; soda ash 4¾@5c; refined 6@6½c; nitrate soda 4½@5c; wherry 6½@6½c.

BEANS—Receipts 200 bush. There is no change in prices, with sales choice at $3 00@3 25 ₱ bbl; common $2 00@2 25.

BEER—Ale—Cleveland and Erie, $4 ₱ bbl; India Ale, $11 ₱ 60; Porter $10 ₱ bbl.

BUTTER—We quote prime to choice at 23@28c; fair to good 18@20c; common 16@17c.

BRAN—Prime white navy $2 75@3 00 per bushel; common $2 50.

BROOMS—Market quiet, and prices nominally $2 @3 50 ₱ ₱.

BAKER BAR ON POWDER—Sales at $6 00 per dozen for 1 ₱ cans; ½ ₱ cans $3 25 per dozen; ¼ ₱ cans $1 75.

BROOM CORN—Prices nominally 4½@6c, as to quality and condition.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—The market remains unchanged, with sales at the following figures: Sugar cured hams 13½c; sugar cured shoulders 7½c; plain shoulders 6c; rib sides 8½c; clear sides 9c; extra clear sides 9c; breakfast bacon 11¼c; dried beef 13c; prime pork $14 50; ham sausage 10c; clear lard, in tier 6¾c; half bbls 9¼c; pails 10c; pigs feet, ½ half bbls, $4 75; in kegs ₱ 40. Receipts bacon—1 piece; 1,265 ₱.

COUNTRY MEATS—Hams 8c; clear sides 6¼c; shoulders 5½c. Lard 5½@6c per lb.

CEMENT—Calcined plaster $4 25@4 50 per bbl; Beeson's hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25; Louisville $2 50@2 75; calcined clay, $1 25.

CANDLES—Stearine at 14½@15c; star 21½@22c; mould 12c ₱ ₱.

CHEESE—Prime New York Goshen 16½@17c ₱ ₱; Ohio Goshen 15½@16c; Dairy 13½@14c; Factory 14¾ @15c. Receipts 118 boxes.

CIDER—Sales at $2@7 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES—$9@9 per bbl; Steile and Carey's find a ready market at $14@15 ₱ bbl; cultivated and common $9@13 ₱ bbl.

CANDLE NUT—The market continues very dull, and prices have reached a very low figure; standard brands, nothing doing; soft, quoted at 12@12½c at works, at 18@21½c; from store, in a small way, the usual advance is charged.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Market more active with sales at $5 ₱ case.

DRIED FRUITS—Demand fair at 4@5½c for apples; peaches, halves, 7@8c; blackberries 9@11¼c; pitted cherries 20@22c; not pitted 5@8c.

DRESSED HOGS—The market is fully supplied, with sales at 5@5¾c ₱ ₱.

FEATHERS—No. 1 live geese selling to the trade at 72½@75c ₱ ₱, with the usual advance for small lots.

EGGS—We quote prime fresh eggs at 33@35c; packing stock 29@30c per dozen.

FISH—White fish $5 50 ₱ half barrel; mackerel, shore, $20@22 per barrel; No. 1 bay $17@18; No. 2 bay, $15@16; No. 3 bay, $12@13; trout, in small packages, $4 75, and $7 in tubs; new cod fish in bbls, $7 50; pickerel; new Labrador split $5 50@6 00; new Labrador $7 50.

FLOUR—Market very active and receipts largely in excess of demand. Dealers are now filling orders as fast as the goods arrive. Owing to the late advance in the winter wheat, prices on best grades will likely advance. Spring wheat flours are doing well, but in prices of these grades we dare not look for any change for some days at least. The bulk of the railroad comm enced receiving freight to-day. This will probably have a more widely diffused effect on the rulings of the market: Penn ₱ ₱ $6 00; Spring wheat $5 75; Island (Minnesota) $6 25; Cook's $7 75; Extra $8 25; black wheat flour ₱ ₱ $4 50; Rye, $4 75@5 00.

Flour Received by A. V. R. R.

Shippers.	Consignees.	Bbls.
P S Hussey	American Oil Works.	396
S S Lincoln	S S Newcomber	753
Hall Oil Works	Hall Oil Works	222
Chas. Bruce	H S A Stewart	163
Owen Brady	Eclipse Oil Works	393
Hall Oil Works	Hall Oil Works	318
N W Seventeen	Peerless Oil Works	315
Hall Oil Works	Eagle Oil Works	483
S S Lincoln	Sunbeam Oil Works	80
S S Lincoln	Vesta Oil Works	451
J Oliver	Petrolia Oil Works	474
Hall Oil Works	Penn Oil Works	317
Total		4,045

Grain Received by Rail and River.

Mills.	Bbls.
American Oil Works	393
Hall Oil Works and	393
Scalped Oil Works	393
Peerless Oil Works	318
Hall Oil Works	318
Hall Oil Works	318
Hall

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Thursday, January 9, 1873.

THE VERY LATEST.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

Progress of the Investigation—Cross-Examination of John B. Alley.

WASHINGTON, January 8.—The Credit Mobilier investigating Committee met this morning, all the members present excepting Mr. Banks.

The cross-examination of John B. Alley was resumed.

He said that up to December, 1867, the Credit Mobilier shares had no market value. He knew that two shares were sold at 95, and some were offered at 75, but late in December, 1867, after Ames had put upon a basis, the stock rose in value, bringing 160, and in January 200, and later 230.

The Chairman having asked a question relative to the one hundred shares standing in the name of Nelson, son-in-law of James Brooks, witness said he had no personal knowledge as to who was the original owner of them, or who had paid for them. It appeared on the books that Nelson was the owner, and was entitled to fifty shares more. There was no conversation between witness and Brooks in relation to those fifty shares of Nelson's. He presumed Nelson paid for the shares.

Mr. McCrary asked witness whether he knew how many shares of Credit Mobilier were disposed of to Members of Congress. Answer—Oakes Ames's subscription, I believe, was on the books, and Hooper's, Colfax's and my own. Senator Wilson agreed to take twenty shares and Dawes ten shares. I took five hundred shares, but they were not delivered to myself. After January 1st, 1868, I do not know that any were sold to any Member of Congress at par. I did not know that the subscription of fifty shares of the road would depend on friendly or unfriendly legislation. I did not care one way or the other, any further legislation would be required, and none as to the pecuniary matters of the company. If the fullest investigation could have been made into this subject, the public would have been better satisfied, especially after the Poland Committee had instituted, which gave rise to so much misapprehension. The removal of the office of the Union Pacific Railroad Company to Boston was a matter of life and death to the company, to keep it out of the clutches of Judge Barnard and Fisk. Fisk wanted witness to settle with him for $100,000, and witness said he would never be willing for the company to pay him a single cent, saying to Fisk, "All your interest is only two hundred and fifty dollars." Fisk replied it was a matter of dollars, and that if the company would not give him $100,000 he would damage it to the extent of a million, and Fisk did damage it to the amount of several millions by his suits.

Witness was asked whether he did not get and hold under his control one hundred thousand dollars to cause an annulment of the Secretary of the Treasury's rulings as to the interest on Union Pacific Government bonds, to which witness answered that so far as he was concerned he challenged investigation. He never had any money, nor a dollar, to use directly or indirectly for such purpose, nor did he believe Ames used any money for influencing the legislation of Congress, by allowing his friends to have stock. Witness said he held the stock at two hundred in January, 1868. His impression was that it included all dividends, as he himself never got any dividends of stock thus sold. He held this stock for Peter Butler, of Boston, who, he understood, bought it for Bardwell of that city.

Question—Do you know how much money Oakes Ames put into the Credit Mobilier stock? Answer—I do not. The books show. I also know of my own personal knowledge that he paid one hundred dollars a share for every share of stock issued to him.

Question—Did you not say yesterday that he put in five or six millions dollars, or over? Answer—No sir. I did say his individual interest in the forty-seven million contract was between five and six million dollars, and my own individual interest less than half a million.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

MR. COLFAX ON THE "MORAL WRONG."

During the examination of Vice President Colfax, yesterday, before the Credit Mobilier Committee, his answer to Mr. Merrick's question as to whether it occurred to him in 1868 that there was a moral wrong in the Credit Mobilier, was that he preferred not to decide whether the conduct of others was not wrong, but his conduct was moral or not, but the impression on his mind at the time he would give frankly. He had heard that many railroads were issuing their bonds and their mortgage bonds to contractors at about seventy cents on the dollar, which, he supposed, had influenced him to pay for at par, and he inferred that as so many millions had been regarded as building any Pacific Railroad as a hazardous enterprise, the principal stockholders for the character of the enterprise undertaken had decided to build it themselves for subsidy, whether it proved profitable or unprofitable. With such impressions, whether correct or not, the idea of immorality had not occurred to him. But he withdrew from it nearly five years ago to avoid being mixed up in its litigation. Mr. Colfax asked that Mr. Ames and Mr. McComb, who were present, should cross-examine him, but each stated that he had no questions to ask him.

THE SUIT ORDERED BY CONGRESS.

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives last Monday, requesting the President to employ two attorneys to commence suit against the Credit Mobilier and its stockholders, corporately and individually, in the proper Court or Courts, to compel a recovery of what may be due or what may become due to the Union Pacific Railroad in law or equity, the President, it is understood, has selected, and will appoint, Hon. Aaron F. Perry, ex-Member of Congress, of Cincinnati, and General Harlan, of Kentucky.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1873, 9 P. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For New England and vicinity—Fair weather and snow to-night, but winds probably shifting to westerly on Thursday, with clearing weather. For the Middle States winds shifting to northwesterly and south westerly with clear and clearing weather on Thursday. For the Southern States east of the Mississippi northerly and northwesterly winds with generally clear weather and lower temperature. From the Ohio valley and Missouri to Lake Erie and the upper lakes rising temperature and low temperature, with winds veering to westerly and northwesterly and gradually diminishing in force, and clear and clearing weather.

Eighth of January Celebration at Wooster, Ohio, by the Democracy.

Special Dis. atch to the Commercial.

WOOSTER, OHIO, January 8, 1873.

The Democracy of this place celebrated the eighth of January by holding a festival in Academy Hall, presided over by Hon. A. H. Byers. The exercises consisted of speeches, music and dancing. Addresses were delivered by Hon J. A. Estillo, Gen. Aquila Wiley, Thos. H. Bond, Esq., E. B. Espiman, Esq. The hall was crowded and a general good time experienced.

Snow Storm at Chicago.

CHICAGO, January 8.—A terrible snow storm—the snow as fine as sand—accompanied by a heavy gale of wind, has been raging for more since three P. M. The thermometer is two degrees above zero, but the cold is terrible on account of the piercing wind, accompanied by an extraordinary electrical storm, which interferes with the telegraph wires.

NEWS SUMMARY

BY TELEGRAPH.

The Georgia Legislature met yesterday, and organized by electing S. N. Trammel President of the Senate and A. O. Bacon Speaker of the House.

In New York city, Tuesday, it was discovered that a Mr. Kidd, a twine merchant in Murray street, had a train of fuse connecting his premises with adjoining property, whereby it could be set on fire. Kidd was arrested, and his office boy testified to seeing him making the fuses. Three large warehouses were involved in this attempt, and but for the discovery a heavy conflagration would have ensued, as the trains of fuse were nearly all laid in the upper stories, and even the roof to roof.

At the New Hampshire Democratic Convention, yesterday, James A. Weston was nominated for Governor on first ballot.

Seven jurors were obtained in the Tweed case, at New York, yesterday.

W. J. Heely, United States Navy Paymaster, was arrested at New York yesterday, charged with defrauding the government of $10,000.

The total mortality in New York city in 1872 was 32,647; an increase of 3,671 over 1871.

Jacob Winger, aged sixty, residing two miles from Oil City, was accidentally shot and killed on Tuesday, by his son. The young man took down a gun for the purpose of cleaning it, first ascertaining that it was not loaded, and being informed that it was not. After cleansing the weapon he put a cap on and pulled the trigger, the gun was discharged and the bullet crushed through the head of the father, who was sitting but a few feet distant.

It is officially reported that of fifty-five school houses inspected in New York city, thirteen were insufficiently provided with means of escape in case of fire.

The estimates of internal revenue expenses for the next fiscal year amount to $4,700,000, but of this nearly $2,500,000 is to pay gaugers and storekeepers under the act of June 6, 1872.

Governor Woodson was inaugurated at Jefferson City, Missouri, yesterday, and delivered his inaugural message. During its reading thirty guns were fired in commemoration of Jackson's victory at New Orleans.

Andrew McDonald, aged 104 years, a native of Ireland and twenty-one years a resident of New Orleans, died yesterday.

Adams Express Co. caused the arrest of one of its employees yesterday, in Cincinnati, whose business was to distribute money packages in the city. He is charged with embezzling $2,000 from their letters. He denies his guilt.

The Minnesota Legislature organized yesterday by electing A. P. Hall, of Hennapin county, Speaker of the House. The votes for State officers were canvassed, and the Governor's message will be delivered to-day.

Gen. Augur, in Texas, telegraphs the death of Gen. James H. Carlton, who commanded the Department of New Mexico during the late war.

In Philadelphia yesterday twelve soldiers of the war of 1812 commemorated the battle of New Orleans.

The chairmen of the various trades in Philadelphia, appointed to select subscriptions to the centennial stock, held a meeting yesterday. The reports received were very encouraging and subscriptions are rapidly filling.

The heaviest snow storm of the season is prevailing in the Northwest, and trains are delayed in all directions.

The Wisconsin Legislature organized at Madison yesterday and adjourned.

Gov. Booth's proposition to the general government to give the Madocs three thousand acres of land and not drive them on the present reservation is not accepted.

The Kentucky Legislature organized at Frankfort, yesterday, and the Governor's message read.

The General Assembly of Illinois met at Springfield, Illinois, yesterday, elected officers and adjourned until to-day.

A large representation of heavy business men of Buffalo met yesterday and passed resolutions indorsing the recent action of the Chamber of Commerce of New York looking to aid from the general government for the enlargement of the Erie canal, and the opening of the same to the free commerce of all the States.

CRIMES.

The Hibler Homicide Case at Fort Wayne.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., January 8, 1873.

Edward O'Rourke, on the part of the State, consumed the morning and afternoon sessions of the Criminal Court to-day, in his presentation of the Hibler case. The court room was crowded. The prisoner evinced considerable uneasiness during the delivery of the speech. The remainder of the case will take two days in the delivery of arguments, and the jury will probably be charged on Friday.

CASUALTIES.

Brakeman Injured—Drunken Man Saved from Death by Two Ladies.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CLEARFIELD CITY, IND., January 8, 1873.

George McKibben, a brakeman, had his hand badly smashed while coupling cars here last night. It was his second trip over the road.

An unknown man was found asleep on the Panhandle track last night by two ladies. He was dead drunk and the Eastern express in sight. The ladies attempted to stop the train, but finding it impossible they dragged him from the track when the train had but a few yards distant.

Accident on the Nashville Railroad—Twenty Persons Injured.

LOUISVILLE, January 8.—The accident last night at Belmont Station, on the Nashville Railroad, was caused by a broken rail. Three cars were thrown off the track, and ran some distance on the ties, turned over and one caught fire but was speedily extinguished. None were badly damaged. About sixty passengers were on train, and twenty were injured, most of them slightly. Only five or six were much hurt, viz: Miss Mary Crawley, a frightful gash on left eye, probably loss of eye. Hon. Henry D. McHenry, Member of Congress, Hartford, Kentucky, en route for Washington, shoulders dislocated and bruised about the body; Mrs. Houston, Tuscumbia, Alabama, collar bone broken and severe internal injuries; R. J. Daniel, Louisville, cut on left arm severing the artery; Thomas Stephens, Beaver Dam, Kentucky, right hand badly cut and shoulders much bruised; H. B. and Miss Taylor, Chicago, several bruises. Others received bruises and scratches, but none of a severe nature.

Horrible Sufferings of Wrecked Seamen.

NEW ORLEANS, January 8.—The *Times* to-morrow will contain the narrative of Mr. Seaville, first officer of the wrecked ship Golden Hand, who has just arrived from Rio. The vessel was wrecked off the west coast of Portugal in June last, and fourteen of the crew spent eight-eight hours in two open boats in the Straits of Magellan. They were compelled from starvation to devour the bodies of five of their companions who died from starvation and exposure.

THE CROPS OF THE STATE.

The Products During the Past Year.

From the report of the Department of Agriculture for November and December, 1872, we take the following relative to the quality of the corn crop of Pennsylvania, and the condition of other crops of the State:

Lawrence county—Crop good, but injured by wet. Lancaster—Average; would have been greater but for wind-storms. Mifflin—Very good. Crawford—Never better. Armstrong—Husked in good order; that part of the crop replanted on account of cut-worms is unfilled. Cranberries abundant. Somerset—Not for storms lodging it on the ground. Montgomery—Large, and generally good. Chester—Crop large and sound. Bucks—Never larger. Cambria—Will not compensate the deficiency of hay. Wayne—Husking delayed by wet. Centre—Abundant and well matured.

POTATOES.

Elk county—Crop poorer than was anticipated; Early Rose and Peerless rotted badly on low lands. Juniata—Injured by rain; rotted to some extent. Wayne—Rain delayed potato-digging. Armstrong—Crop largely run to top, but turns out good. Crawford—Not a crop, though not so dry or sound. Crawford—Not a full crop. Lancaster—Three-fourths of a crop and poor. Lawrence—The tubers injured by rapid growth making them soggy; sweet potatoes better than usual.

WINTER GRAINS.

Cumberland county—More promising than for many years. Lancaster—Wheat lately sown is declining in condition under the influence of the cold weather. Chester—Injured by Berks—Horse disease interfered with plowing and seeding. York—Growing crops look remarkably well.

The following shows the average yield per acre of the principal crops of the State for 1872, together with the average price per bushel on the 1st of December:

	Bushels.	Price.
Corn	39	63
Wheat	16-9	1 06
Rye	10-4	80
Oats	23-5	36
Barley	21-2	86
Buckwheat	16-9	93
Potatoes	99	56

THE managers of the aquarium at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, have made an interesting discovery. Although they had been very successful with their marine aquarium, the soundit extremely difficult to keep the fish alive in their fresh-water tanks, notwithstanding that the management of fresh-water fishes and aquatic animals is usually considered much less difficult than that of the inhabitants of the sea. At last they discovered the cause of all the trouble, and, instead of having supplied their tanks with water provided by a London company, and it was found that the water used for filling the tanks was drawn by a portion of the inhabitants of London, being infected with sewage, was of so poisonous a quality that it killed the fishes that were placed in it so rapidly as to seriously interfere with the attractiveness of the exhibition. What effect the use of this bad water has had upon the people of London is not stated.

OHIO NEWS.

The Urichsville *Chronicle* says: A week ago last Sunday, while Mrs. Fred. Biteler of New Philadelphia, was milking the cows, a queer ceiling came over her, as she expressed it, and in a short time she felt so bad that she sent for a doctor. By the time the physician arrived, he was deaf and dumb, but otherwise apparently well and hearty. Soon after a bereft from her he was still in the same condition.

William T. Coverdale, aged nineteen, was instantly killed near Zanesville on Friday, by the overturning of a wagon loaded with coal. His neck was broken.

William Buckland, of Pataskala, while digging a drain, came upon some mammoth bones. One tusk measured five feet five and a half inches, and the molar teeth were three and a half by seven inches.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ingersoll, of Oberlin, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on New Year's day.

At the Baptist conference recently held at Greene, Trumbull county, it was resolved that there is no Scripture license for the manufacture of cheese or any other article on the Sabbath.

Probably the oldest man living in Ohio is William Richardson, of Hamer, Paulding county, who reached his 108th year on the 12th day of September last.

The Zanesville *Signal* says: There are rumors of a sad case of "ministerial crisis" in this vicinity, involving the families of two ministers of the gospel—one being charged with the seduction of the other's daughter. The offending "brother," it is said, has been suspended until an investigation shall either prove him guilty or exonerate him.

A warm spring has been discovered in Granville township, Licking county.

The State Agricultural College will be formally opened for pupils on September 1st.

A young child of Owen Roberts, living near Columbus, was burned to death on Friday while its mother was absent from home.

The first number of the *Ohio Farmer*, under the management of its new proprietor, Mr. M. J. Lawrence, late of the Cleveland *Herald*, is out. It has been enlarged, and its mechanical appearance greatly improved. It is now one of the finest looking agricultural journals in the country, and its contents are of the best character.

ADDITIONAL RIVER DISPATCHES.

Accident to the Steamer Louisville.

CINCINNATI, January 8.—A dispatch from Aurora says that while the steamer Louisville was lying at Lawsar had a hole cut in her hull by ice, but was lightened, repaired and went on.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, O., January 8.—River thirty feet and stationary. Departed—Minnesota, New Orleans, and packets. The coal fleet is safe at Marietta and the Columbia is still here.

Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, KY., January 8.—River ten feet six inches in the canal and eight feet six inches in the chute, and rising. This evening is clear and cold. The Crescent came up from Vicksburg. The Clinton left for New Orleans, going over the falls. The Nick Longworth was laid up at Utica, eight miles above, P. M.; will probably be down in the morning. Hiram Hill, diver, says the Buell lies one mile below the Madison wharf boat, with seven feet of water on the main deck. Her break runs from forward of the hatch back to the shaft on the starboard side.

They assured us they cannot be raised till the river falls. The ice running tolerably heavy this morning. Very soft weather has prevailed during this afternoon. The following is the list of boats ready for packing: Charlie Co., during the ice; Boat: By the Big Magnolia, coal boat R. and H. S., 12; D. & C., No. —; S. No. 13; Peytona Cannel, No. —; W. J. May—Barges, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; the Big Hornet and W. H. Brown, Nos. 16, 17 and 70; Bates; Lysle & Son, No. 47; coal numbers; Storm, No. —; Dehaiti, No. 5; J. H. Small, No. 1; A. & J. S. Mc-Clain, No. 1. By steamer Robin—About 15,000 boards and tantrack in barges, no names given. Since the boats and when last heard from the Robin was at steamer report the river catching and landing the fleet of seventy-five which passed this point last night.

Nashville.

NASHVILLE, January 8.—River rising slowly, with thirteen feet on the falls. Weather clear and cold. Arrived—Tyrone, Cairo; John S. Brasstord, Upper Cumberland. Departed—Tyrone, Cairo.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, January 8.—Clear. River falling. No arrivals or departures.

Chicago Live Stock Market.

CHICAGO, January 8.—Cattle—Receipts 1,300 head; market active and prices a trifle firmer and clear quality of offerings better; shippers bought at $4 75@5 60 for medium and $5 75 for choice; stock cattle sold at $4 25@4 75; common cows to butchers' cattle $2 90@4 64. Hogs—Receipts 25,000 head; prices a trifle lower, with the bulk of sales at $3 10@3 75 for average packing grades; medium to fair $3 30@3 70; closing quite firm.

STATE NEWS.

It is said that the liquor men have raised a fund of $100,000 to secure the repeal of the local option law at the present session of the Legislature.

The Bankers' Association of the Oil Regions will meet in Oil City next Tuesday.

The Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias will meet in Philadelphia on the 28th inst.

A gentleman of Lancaster county offers fifteen cents for every live partridge brought to him. His object is to shelter them during the winter, provide them with the necessary food and permit them to have their freedom in the spring.

The manufactories of Erie have more than doubled their capacity and production during the past two years, and bid fair to prove more prosperous hereafter.

A man got on a passenger train on the Oil Creek Railroad, the other day, having a suspicious looking bundle rolled up in his overcoat, which he deposited carefully on a seat in the smoking car. The conductor spied the package, and asked the owner if he had torpedoes rolled up in that coat, and the man vehemently asserted that he had not. It turned out, however, that they were torpedoes, and contained enough of that delightful substance, nitro-glycerine, to demolish the whole train, locomotive and all. The ball was rung in a hurry, the man put off in the snow, and the conductor, much relieved, gave the signal to go ahead.

A small sized squirrel, at Franklin, stole seven bushels of corn, but was detected just as he had commenced on the eighth, and had to give up his plunder.

The Rev. J. J. Marks, of Brookville, has accepted a call from a Presbyterian church near St. Louis.

Chester county produces more woolen goods than any county in this State.

An immense hotel is to be erected at the Delaware Water Gap the coming season.

J. B. Adams, editor of the Scranton *Democrat*, and his wife, were arrested a few days ago on a charge of slander, preferred by Miss E. A. Titus. Bail was entered in the sum of $1,000 for Mrs. Adams, but the valorous quill-propeller preferred martyrdom after the style of Talkington, and was incarcerated in the county Bastile at Wilkesbarre.

The Odd Fellows' Home Association will hold their second annual meeting in Meadville next week, commencing on Tuesday.

Mr. George Neely, of Economy township, Beaver county, fell dead from heart disease a few days since. A Mr. Baker, residing in the same neighborhood, died suddenly from a stroke of palsy, about the same time.

Both the nail factories at Sharon are idle, owing to the strike of the nailers against the reduction of ten cents a keg in their wages.

Successful explorations for iron are being made in Chester county, in the interest of certain iron manufacturers of Philadelphia.

The American eagle is not becoming reverenced in Huntingdon county. At Spruce Creek, the other day, the noble bird "went for" and killed a wild turkey for his dinner, but a vandal saw him do it, drove him away, and made a feast on the representative fowl's legitimate game.

In Philadelphia, last year, there were 701 fires, causing a loss of $6,588,419. The insurances on the property destroyed or damaged amounted to $2,334,405.

Now look out for a rush for places on the Lock Haven police force. The Mayor of that place gave each of his officers an order for an overcoat as a Christmas gift.

The Titusville *Journal* says: "We completely refute the story that a Venango man was seen doing up a nitro-glycerine can for a Christmas present to his mother-in-law. It is no such thing; he hired another man to do it up."

A German named Exley, of Highland township, Clarion county, got drunk during the cold snap, laid himself down by the roadside, and was frozen to death.

Star Drift.

One of the most remarkable discoveries supposed to be made by modern science is the drifting of the stars. Richard Proctor, the Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society, claims the merit of first suggesting the possibility of there being in fact no fixed stars, but Professor Huggins is said to have first demonstrated the fact that certain of the stars, notably Sirius, are wandering through space with almost incredible velocity. The unsteadiness of light-waves are the criteria by which this approach or recession is formed, and the rate at which they strike the eye of the observer gives the proof of the stars coming toward the earth or going from it. If the waves come in quicker succession than from a luminous body at rest, the source of light, according to a well known law, is approaching; if, on the contrary, they come in slower succession than from a luminous body at rest, the source of light is receding. Not only does this "star-drift"—as Mr. Proctor calls it—takes place with single stars, but whole groups, with rythmic motion, are circling among themselves, sometimes slowly, sometimes silently, swiftly, mysteriously, in a common direction, sometimes intervolved in a manner at present unaccountable.

CITY MATTERS.

Ever Harte at Library Hall.

Bret Harte will deliver his discourse, "The Argonauts of '49," at Library Hall this evening. The lecture is replete with interest from first to last.

"Our Church Paper."

This is the title of a new paper just issued in this city, and published by the Pittsburgh Synod of the Reformed church in the United States. It is under the editorial management of the Rev. George B. Russell, a talented minister of the denomination, and its able and fearless pen will be seen to advantage in quarto form, will be published bi-weekly, and mailed to subscribers at one dollar a year, in advance. As a family visitor it is issued. Doubtless, subserve a good and useful purpose, and we wish it abundant success. The Pittsburgh Synod, under whose auspices the publication has been undertaken, was organized a little less than three years ago, and embraces a membership of over ten thousand communicants. The inference of the paper will no doubt be felt through out the entire denomination; but, being the only synodical paper published, it should receive a liberal support within the bounds of the Synod. The publication office is at No 367 Liberty street.

THE U. S. MARSHALSHIP.

Change of Officials.

In the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, the newly appointed Marshal for this district was inducted into office. Judges McKennan and Mc Candless were on the bench. The new Marshal, Captain John Hall, appeared and filed his bond in the sum of twenty-th ousand dollars, with Hon. Alexander Murdoch, late Marshal, and Robert Sutton, as sureties, which was approved by the court.

Judge McCandless then complimented Marshal Murdoch upon the able and satisfactory manner in which he had discharged his public duties during the administrations of both Mr. Lincoln and Gen. Grant, and that though their official relations were now dissolved, yet he was pleased to assure him that the best wishes of all the court officials would go with him into whatever field of labor he might enter.

After administering the oath to Mr. Hall, the Judge presented him with the commission, and congratulated him on his promotion. His Honor remarked that the President could have made no better selection, nor could Mr. Murdoch have a more worthy successor.

OIL CONTRACTS.

Important Opinion Affecting the Measure of Damages for Breach of Contracts—Interesting to "Oil Rings."

Judge Agnew, of the Supreme Court, has just rendered opinions in the cases of Wm. J. Kountz vs. the Citizens' Oil Refining Company, and Kountz vs. Kirkpatrick & Lyon, tried in our Court of Common Pleas, and taken up to the Supreme Court on writs of error. The judgments of the Court below have been reversed in both cases. The opinion in the latter case has not yet been received here, but that in the former has come to hand and is as follows:

Wm. J. Kountz vs. The Citizens' Oil Refining Company. Error to the Common Pleas of Allegheny county. Opinion by Agnew, J.

In Kountz vs. Kirkpatrick & Lyon, opinion just read, we have held that a temporary, unnatural and inflated market price produced by a combination of dealers in oil, for selfish and personal gain, is not the true measure of the value of that article of trade; and that on showing such a state of the market on the day of the performance of his bargain, the defendant could resort to the market price prevailing just before and after the day, and to other evidence of the true market value, in order to enable the jury to ascertain the fair value of the article on that day, as the measure of the damages for his breach of contract. The reasons for this are set below to receive evidence for this purpose in this case was therefore error.

It is argued that this refusal of the Court was founded upon a proper interpretation of the affidavit of defence, filed by the defendant to the order of the Court in this case, and under its general rule. It is to be conceded that, generally, the affidavit making rules of practice are the best judges of their interpretation and application; but the question here arises upon the plaintiff's affidavit in this case itself, rather than upon the rule. We have said heretofore that too much reliance should not be placed in considering affidavits of defense, when a valid or substantial defense is set forth; otherwise the whole rule will be converted into a snare to entrap justice. Labenspeyer vs. Reading Savings Bank, 6 Casey, and Thompson vs. Clark, 6 P. F. Smith. The rule that the affidavit sets forth in unambiguous terms an illegal combination of the plaintiffs and others to buy up oil, create a scarcity, and enhance the price, for the very purpose of preventing the defendant from complying with his contract, and for compelling them to make great gains. It sets forth also the means whereby this purpose was effected, and that the combination operates proceeded in raising the price of oil between the dates named in the affidavit from 13½ cents up to 18 cents per gallon. The latter was the 31st day of December, 1869, the day when the contract was to be performed, the former price being one for considerably less than 15 cents per gallon. Now clearly this was not a fair market price, but an inflated, factitious and temporary prise, as proper measure of damages. But the Court below thought that the statement that the conspirators succeeded in raising the price on the 31st of December, 1869, to 18 cents a gallon, was an admission of that being the market price. It was an admission of an inflated market price, but not that it was the fair market value of the oil. What the defendant averred substantially was, that the market price on that day was the result of an illegal combination to recover damages, but that the fair market value of the oil was considerably less than 18 cents per gallon, which was the price sworn to in the plaintiff's affidavit of claim. Were more could the defendant say truthfully? He could not conscientiously say that the appreciated price in the market on that day was 18 cents; but he could conscientiously say that price was not the fair and true market value of the oil on that day, and that the factitious and inflated price was not the true measure of the damages. This he did and substantially, and he should have been permitted to prove the truth of his averments. The affidavit of defense had performed its office; he was now on the trial of its truth, and he accurately had not admitted that 18 cents was the fair market value of oil on that day.

Judgment reversed, and a *venire facias de novo* awarded.

Judge Williams disented, and Judge Sharswood concurred "on the authority of Kountz vs. Kirkpatrick.

MUNICIPAL TAXATION AND INDEBTEDNESS.

City Treasurer Magee to Mr. Buckalew.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE,
PITTSBURGH, January 6, 1873.

HON. CHAS. R. BUCKALEW, Chairman of the Committee on Public and Municipal Debts and Sinking Funds of the Constitutional Convention:

DEAR SIR—Although a political opponent, I take the liberty of addressing you upon a subject in which we both, in common with other taxpayers, have an interest—a subject which particularly belongs to the committee of which you are the chairman.

Of all the intricate questions, social and economical, with which your Convention will have to consider, the most interesting to me is that of "Local Taxation," which I probably understand better than I do any other which will occupy the attention of the Convention.

The contrast afforded by the decrease in the debt of the Federal government during the last six years and the steady advancement of the municipal debts, of nearly all the large cities of the country, during the same period, is one that must comprehend it—yet, the reason is very plain. The government at the close of the war ceased issuing bonds and began to pay up; the municipalities at the same time commenced to issue bonds and increase their debts on the slightest pretexts. The debt of nearly every city in the States, of respectable pretensions, has doubled, and in many instances trebled, in the last six years. A curious observer of things, especially during hard times, extravagance is engendered by the best of public matters may be and doubtless are, although not necessarily so, but there are always prodigality and extravagance is engendered by the best of all feelings, good fellowship. They spend with no niggardly hand. Why should they not? Money in supply is to them exhaustless. If it is not collected for the public property, it can easily and procure authority to issue bonds; the principal is seldom thought of, the interest is a very simple matter, as it is spread over fifty years. A tax of only a mount to much on individual properties. To cure this ogre under which nearly your convention shows draw tight the purse strings and public necessities would be squared to public means, as provided by the Constitution. To this end I would suggest as appropriate measures.

First. To put a Constitutional limit to municipal debts—by the term municipal meaning every subdivision of the State, that is to say, the public debt of any municipality shall at no time exceed a fixed percentage, say 10 per cent. of the assessed valuation of the property within the municipality, without or proposing to borrow money.

Second. That municipalities shall hereafter contract no debt, running for a term of years, without at the same time providing a sinking fund sufficient to extinguish the entire debt within the time in which it is payable.

Third. To limit the annual tax levy. This limit should be sufficient to cover all reasonable expenses, including interest on debt and provisions for sinking fund.

Fourth. In cities and boroughs, Councils should not have power to levy taxes. A Board of Control should be constituted, to whom all power to levy taxes for county purposes should be given.

To illustrate the last proposition. In our city and county we have numerous taking bodies—City Councils, City Poor Board, Board of Health, Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, City Hall Commissioners, Water Commissioners, Fire Commissioners, Central Board of Education, different District School Boards, Commissioners for Street Improvements, County Commissioners, Prison Board, Work House Board, County Poor Board, &c.—nearly all of whom possess the power of levying taxes. They have no official cognizance of what the others do, and the result is that the taxpayer is compelled to answ ers for nearly all the different departments goes on in a happy go-lucky style that would run any private business, relative to different purposes for which we are engaged in like manner.

The total amount assessed by each seems small, but the aggregate would deter the parties, if all were under the control of the same persons. Each of these departments of the city and county government should be compelled to report to the taxing power the amount of money necessary to properly conduct the operations of their departments during the ensuing year, to whom this report is made should have the right to reduce the estimates, if they thought proper, but not to increase them. After all the estimates were in, and the total definite tax, sufficient for all purposes, should be levied and collected.

These restrictive provisions should be inserted in the constitution, which is itself restrictive and declaratory of the taxing power. Some of the States say that your convention is composed of "old fogies," who are anxious to get Harrisburg out of the new constitution—that you wish to provide for everything. These critics would doubtless say that the features I would suggest as to the property belong to the Legislature. Your Legislature, as now composed and for some years, where the law-makers possess the power to grant municipalities the right to issue bonds and raise money to supply ordinary wants, they do it so freely as often as it is asked. Of course, I mean that the constitution shall limit, etc.; Allegheny, D. C. Judgment reversed.

The Charleroi and Robinson Township Road Co. vs. McNamara; Allegheny, D. C. Affirmed. Thompson and Sherwood dissented.

Schlabach's Ex'rs vs. Mangel; Erie. Affirmed.

Cooper vs. Bushlief; Erie. Reversed.

Fay dat s contract, and it behooves your convention to put on the brakes as to this matter of running in debt, before it becomes too onerous. Do so in your wisdom will be an overwhelming relief to the municipalities at the same time commenced to issue bonds and increase their debts on the slightest pretexts. The debt of nearly every city in the States, of respectable pretensions, has doubled, and in many instances trebled, in the last six years. A curious observer of things, especially during hard times, extravagance is engendered by the best of public matters may be and doubtless are, although not necessarily so, but there are always prodigality and extravagance is engendered by the best of all feelings, good fellowship. They spend with no niggardly hand. Why should they not? Money in supply is to them exhaustless. If it is not collected for the public property, it can easily and procure authority to issue bonds; the principal is seldom thought of, the interest is a very simple matter, as it is spread over fifty years. A tax of only a mount to much on individual properties. To cure this ogre under which nearly your convention shows draw tight the purse strings and public necessities would be squared to public means, as provided by the Constitution. To this end I would suggest as appropriate measures.

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